

PSCAC Meeting Minutes

22 March 2006

PSCAC Members Present:

Andy Kelemen	Gayle Fisher Stewart
Steve Cavallo	Aaron Houston
Buddy Daniels	Fred Shultz
Mike Israel	Deborah Welsh (guest)
Ed Coursey, Capt. TPPD -- presenter	

This was a two-part meeting consisting of an abbreviated PSCAC meeting from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, followed by the joint PSCAC Neighborhood Safety Contacts (NSC) meeting, which ended at 9:30 pm.

NSC Meeting Attendees (in addition to the present PSCAC members)

Clair Garman	Michele Morgan
Mary Thomas	Tom Thomas
Larry Hershman	Mike Izzo
David Bates	Kito Marth
Thomas Schweinhaut	Colleen DiPaul
David DeWees	Anne Ludlow
Heather Brown	
Stacy Baker, Co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee -- presenter	
Thomas D. Horne, Mstr. Fire Fighter -- presenter	

The PSCA meeting opened at 1835hrs, the joint meeting opened at 7:45 pm.

The minutes of the 22 February meeting were approved with modifications.

It was proposed to the members, that PSCAC request that the Emergency Preparedness Committee examine the need for the city of Takoma Park to prepare, and when appropriate, to provide emergency aid to residents when aid from other sources, e.g. the County or Red Cross, is not available during the first 72 hours of an emergency. The thinking was that such need may come about when only a relatively few residents need aid, and when outside agencies have not mobilized to provide it due to the relatively few people who need it.

After some discussion, the majority of the members present felt that such burden should not be placed on the City. And that it was the responsibility of the residents to individually make whatever arrangements are necessary to assure that they and their dependents do not need aid from the City during the first 72 hours of an emergency. It is to be noted that this was not a *consensus* agreement but a majority opinion.

The PSCAC only portion of the meeting concluded with a review of the NSC Agenda. This Agenda is attached.

The presentations by Capt. Coursey, Tom Horne and Stacy Baker were well received and the subsequent discussion lively.

The audience challenged both Capt. Coursey and Tom Horne on basically the same underlying issue. The issue being: "How can we, the residents, accept that the complex, interlocking plans of the various agencies responsible for delivering different parts of the response to an emergency will work as they are supposed to?"

Capt. Coursey, who talked about how the County command center is organized, tried to assure the audience that plans were frequently tested and that the communication system and command structure in Montgomery County was up to speed on the problems encountered in Louisiana during Katrina. He reiterated that the County was confident that they have the plans and delivery systems in place that will respond to the needs of an emergency in Montgomery County.

Tom Horne, Master Fire Fighter, emphasized in his presentation the need for individuals and families to prepare to carry on as close to normal as possible, given the nature of a specific emergency, during the first three or four days. He gave some practical examples of how to choose what to store, and the importance of being able to receive emergency information.

Stacy Baker, Co-chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, presented her experience taking the CERT classes. CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Training provided for those people who wish to become certified front-line assistants to first responders in an emergency. She urged as many people as possible to sign up for this training and to become part of the response and recovery effort instead of the victim.

In all fairness it must be noted that the audience, while satisfied with and complementary to the presenters, did not leave reassured in all particulars. But this is not bad! In fact it is good. One should not be complacent about the possibility of having to face an unknown emergency.

The joint PSCAC NSC meeting ended at approximately 9:30 pm.



Neighborhood Safety Contacts Takoma Park, Maryland

22 March 2006

Meeting Agenda

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| • Introductions | Everyone | 5 minutes |
| • Why we are here;
what we hope to accomplish | Andy Kelemen | 5 minutes |
| • The City's Emergency Operations Plan | Andy Kelemen | 10 minutes |
| • How the City and County work together
in an emergency | Capt. Ed Coursey | 20 minutes |
| • What the MCFRS does in minor,
local emergencies such as trees down
and chemical spills | Mst. F/R. Tom Horn | 20 minutes |
| • What is CERT? | Stacy Baker | 20 minutes |
| • Feedback and discussion | Everyone | 30 minutes |
| • Wrap-up | | |

Refreshments